

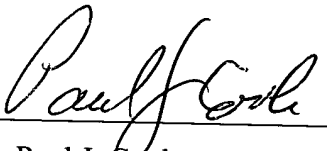
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order to prevent this undesirable separation. In contrast, Ellfson et al discloses a filtration cartridge having a void volume (36) upstream of the filter (44, 40, 38). Accordingly, this ground of objection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims define patentable subject matter and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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